

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

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R 271456Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9499

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0196

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, CZ

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES AGREEMENT

REF: PRAGUE 0176

1. IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT JAN 26 ON CSCE AND
BILATERAL RELATIONS, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL
SAID: "THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC ALSO
CONSISTENTLY APPLIES THE FINAL ACT PROVISIONS ON
COOPERATION IN HUMANITARIAN AND OTHER FIELDS AND
IS READY TO START SHORTLY TALKS ON A SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL AGREEMENT." (NOTE THAT
SINGULAR IS USED.)

2. IN HIS REMARKS AFTERWARD, SPACIL SAID THIS WAS
FORMAL NOTIFICATION THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE
HAD STUDIED THE US TEXT PRESENTED OCT 17, 1975 AND
WAS NOW READY TO BEGIN OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS AS
SOON AS THE US SIDE WAS READY. CHARGE SAID HE
WOULD REPORT THIS PROMPTLY AND HOPED IT WOULD
NOT BE LONG BEFORE HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO BEGIN
NEGOTIATIONS.

3. COMMENT. DEPARTMENT AND USIA WILL BE IN BEST
POSITION TO JUDGE HOW WE SHOULD ADAPT OUR TACTICS
TO STRATEGIC NECESSITY (IF SUCH IT REMAINS) OF
PHASING OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH BUDAPEST'S AND
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SOFIA'S. WE HAVE SAID BEFORE THAT IT MIGHT BE

PREFERABLE TO DELAY START OF NEGOTIATIONS (IN WHICH GOC HAS SO FAR HELPED US) RATHER THAN STOPPING IN MID-STREAM OR ELSE CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS AND THEN PUTTING ON A LONG HOLD BEFORE SIGNING. FROM EMBASSY'S POINT OF VIEW AT PRESENT, IT APPEARS THAT THERE ARE SOME PROMISING NEW SIGNS OF CZECHOSLOVAK READINESS TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE EXCHANGES FIELD, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS AND GET NEGOTIATIONS GOING--AS LONG AS DOING SO HELPS RATHER THAN HINDERS OUR OVERALL RELATIONS. (ANOTHER ELEMENT IN TIMING COULD BE ARRIVAL OF OUR NEW AMBASSADOR, ABOUT WHICH EMBASSY IS OF COURSE UNINFORMED.) ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, IT SEEMS PREFERABLE TO US TO GET THE NEGOTIATIONS (WHICH MAY WELL LAST SEVERAL MONTHS ANYWAY) STARTED RATHER THAN WAITING FOR ANY MORE PROPITIOUS MOMENT. THEREFORE OUR RECOMMENDATION IS THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO BEGIN FORMAL TALKS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

PERRY

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